

REMARKS

Prior to Examination on the merits, applicants wish to amend the claims, without prejudice, as indicated on pages 3 to 17. Applicants retain the right to prosecute the canceled subject matter in this application or a continuing or divisional application.

Applicants also note that they have amended the specification to reflect that this is a National stage application of International application PCT/CA2003/000957, filed June 23, 2003. This application also claims priority to the provisional applications noted on the face of the PCT application.

Any additional fees required in connection with this submission may be taken from Merck Deposit Account Number 13-2755.

Applicants respectfully request early examination of this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number provided below, if such would advance the prosecution of the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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